Most Commonly Asked Financial Aid Questions for Ministerial Formation Students

1. **Do I need to apply for Financial Aid every year?**
   Yes, you need to apply each academic year for which you are enrolled (including vicarage/internship year). Graduate school students, MA, STM, and PhD students have a deadline of March 1 and Ministerial Formation students, MDiv, Alternate Route, and Deaconess students have a deadline of March 31.

2. **How do I check the status of my Financial Aid?**
   You may check the status of your financial aid by checking your SemNet account at [https://semnet.csl.edu](https://semnet.csl.edu). Go to the Finances tab and select Financial Aid. You may view the status of your required documents, your estimated student budget, and the aid that you have received and/or been offered. Your aid will be separated by term. This is live information and will change as aid is added or adjusted.

3. **How do I estimate my costs for the year?**
   The Financial Aid Office has created a fact sheet which will be helpful in estimating costs for the academic year. These fact sheets have been created specifically for the MDiv students and the Deaconess students.

4. **How do I know if I have been assigned an Adopt-a-Student sponsor?**
   Each time you are assigned to a new donor, you will be notified by the Advancement Office. You will also have access to donor contact information in SemNet.

5. **When will I receive Adopt-a-Student funds?**
   Adopt-a-Student is a continuous process. We receive funds on a monthly basis. You may receive some funds in each quarter or you may receive all of your funds in one quarter. The amount will be shown in your Financial Aid award and will be shown as one amount. You will not see a separate account of how much you have received from each donor, this will be lumped together and will show as AAS.

6. **How often should I write a thank you letter to my Adopt-a-Student sponsor(s)?**
   A requirement for remaining eligible for Adopt-a-Student funding is to write a thank you letter to each sponsor at least once a quarter. However, sponsors enjoy hearing from the students and enjoy living your seminary experience through you. It is recommended that you write to each sponsor once a month.

   Your letters are recorded through our Advancement Office. It is imperative that you send them a copy of your letters. Once these copies have been received, the minimum requirement will be
documented and reflected in SemNet. This is a great way to verify that Advancement has received the necessary information prior to the specified deadline.

7. **How does the Financial Aid Office communicate with students?**
   The Financial Aid Office will communicate with enrolled and continuing students through their CSL email account and/or their campus mailbox.

8. **How do I apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan?**
   In order to apply for a Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, you must fill out a loan request form obtained from the Financial Aid Office.

   New borrowers only must also complete the Master Promissory Note and the online entrance counseling through the Federal Direct Student Loan web site. The MPN and online entrance counseling are only completed once while you are at Concordia Seminary. You may complete these online at [https://studentloans.gov](https://studentloans.gov).

   Each year, Concordia Seminary students continue to be blessed with monetary gifts and donations from various outside organizations, congregations and individuals from across the country. Sometimes, the amount of other financial assistance may change your eligibility for student loans. We must reduce your student loans accordingly if an over-award exists.

9. **When is Financial Aid disbursed to students?**

   **Loans**...are disbursed on Tuesdays to your student account. Once all paperwork has been completed and the Financial Aid Office has processed and originated your student loan, it will be released. All loans will be disbursed in equal disbursements, once per quarter. Typically your loan will be evenly disbursed amongst Fall, Winter and Spring quarters.

   **AAS**...Adopt-A-Student funds will post to your student account on Mondays. This funding is released on a monthly basis. As funds are received, they will be disbursed to your student account in the following month, after the Advancement Office, Accounting Office, and the Financial Aid Office have reconciled the funds. Since these funds are disbursed as they are received, you typically will not have even disbursements each quarter.

   **Tuition Grants**...are disbursed to your student account on Mondays. These grants (with the exception of Internship/Vicarage grants) will be released at the beginning of each academic quarter.

   **Priority Endowments**...Typically assigned in September. These will be disbursed in three equal disbursements and released at the beginning of each quarter. They will post to your student account on Mondays.
Merit Scholarships... are disbursed to your student account on Mondays. These will be disbursed in three equal disbursements and released to your student account at the beginning of each quarter.

Home Congregation, District Support and other DTS (outside) gifts... These will post to your student account on Thursdays. They are posted as the money is received.

10. What is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?
This pertains to Financial Aid only and is separate from Academic Probation/Dismissal. This required by the government to ensure that you are making progress toward your program completion. The full SAP policy is located on SemNet in the Financial Aid section and here http://www.csl.edu/admissions/financial/sap/. You will be notified by the Financial Aid Office via letter through Campus Mail if you fail to meet the outlined requirements to maintain federal eligibility.

11. Is there Financial Aid for the Summer Quarter?
Yes. If you have already completed the current year Financial Aid applications, it is not necessary to apply again for the Summer Quarter. You will be eligible to receive the same percentage of tuition grant which you have received during the regular academic year. We will process that grant automatically.

If you think you may need a student loan for the summer quarter, you will need to be enrolled at least half-time. You will also need to get a loan request form from the Financial Aid Office to apply for the loan.

12. How do I get a work-study job?
The Human Resource Office posts open positions on the seminary website. You may find these listings under Student Employment.

Once employed on campus and the proper paperwork has been completed, you will receive a bi-weekly paycheck for the hours which you work.

Acronyms

AAS... Adopt-A-Student

DEST... Deaconess Study Grant

EFC... Expected Family Contribution
FAFSA...Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FCWS...Federal Work Study
NSLDS...National Student Loan Data System
PRIORITY...Seminary Endowment
SAP...Satisfactory Academic Progress
UNSUB...Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
VISTG...Vicarage Grant